

## • Abroad •

**Rheims.** No city of France is more closely intertwined than Rheims with the three great wars of a single century against "the traditional enemy." It was for that very reason that Premier de Gaulle boldly chose Rheims for the scene of the concluding pageantry in Chancellor Adenauer's week-long visit of state. Together the two Catholic leaders attended High Mass at the great cathedral that had suffered the bombs of two of those wars; and together, in the neighboring battlefield, never returned to cultivation, where scores of thousands of their countrymen had slaughtered each other in the war of 1914-18, the two ancients reviewed German and French columns in joint parade. Although Der Alte had been in France fifteen times previously since he took office, this was his first "official visit." He was lodged in the suite at the Quai d'Orsay reserved for sovereigns (though he is "head of government," not "head of state"). Driving with the Premier in from Orly, with the thousands of German flags streaming in the wind, they took an indirect course carefully studied to be not only as conspicuous as possible but marked by spectacular symbols: over the Pont du Carrousel and up the Avenue de l' Opéra; around the church of the Madeleine and down the Rue Royale to and through the Place de la Concorde; up the lower part of the Champs Elysées, past the memorial to Clémenceau, France's leader in the First World War, and back over the Seine on the Alexander III bridge, which was built to celebrate a 19th century Franco-Russian alliance.

**Cairo.** Not much public attention was given to the latest meeting of the "Casablanca group" of African nations, which took place here June 15-17. Several developments are worth recording. Ben Khedda, prime minister of the provisional Algerian government, found the occasion important enough to take time off from his pre-independence month duties. Thus even the leader of Algeria's moderate faction lines the new nation up with the radical African bloc. The usual resolutions were passed, but particular stress was given to the liquidation of white rule in Rhodesia, South Africa, Angola and Mozambique, the immediate elimination of all Belgian troops from Rwanda and Burundi, and an end to Katanga's "secession." To give practical application to this perspective, an "All-African High Command" is to be set up, initially under an Egyptian general with headquarters in Accra. Its first task, already initiated by the Algerians, will be to train and equip guerrillas for operations in the continent's southern third.

**Rome.** The bill for nationalization of the electrical industry may be somewhat modified as it is processed through to final (and certain) passage, but its main features are already decided. A new state institution, ENEL (*Ente Nazionale Energia Elettrica*) will have an exclusive and total monopoly to produce, transport, trans-

form and distribute electrical energy. The expropriated utility companies will get paid over a period of ten years, with interest at 5½%. Their stock will be valued at the average market price in the years 1959-60-61—which because of the stock market fall this year gives a price about 20% above current quotations: a feature of the bill now under attack from the farther Left. Those businesses that produce electricity for their own use—principally giant firms like Fiat and Montecatini—are exempt from the expropriation: a provision that has swung many major industrialists behind the bill. The utility companies will not be required to go out of business, but will rather be encouraged to branch out into other fields, under rules designed to direct their investment into new productive enterprise. The half million individual utility stockholders may keep their stock, sell it on the open market, or turn it over to ENEL in exchange for bonds.



Jan. London Daily Mail

"Good heavens, Rodney, they've got Liberals in Canada, too!"

**Paris.** Although no act has yet been taken publicly in that direction, and will not be for many months to come, there is now substantial reason to believe that de Gaulle has decided to try to make the Count of Paris, pretender to the French throne, his successor. This will be done through the "Presidential system" which de Gaulle intends to initiate by means of his preferred method of rule, the plebiscitary referendum. The Count—who has had close relations with de Gaulle for many years, and has carried out important political assignments for him—will, if the plan works out, succeed de Gaulle as President and head of state. In this, as in all his major political moves, de Gaulle feels that a solution cannot be found merely in terms of personal qualities, but must involve tradition and historic symbols. The analogy between de Gaulle's relation to the Count of Paris and Franco's relation to the Count of Barcelona, though not complete, is sufficiently striking.

**Clenchwarton, England.** The old order passes, as we may judge from a dispatch to the *Guardian*: "The organizers of the annual church carnival in the Norfolk village of Clenchwarton have decided against including in the carnival programme a women's wrestling match in a mud pit on a local farm. Instead a parade of 18 beagles is to be lengthened to fill out the programme."



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